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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1960



POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1960

together with

THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

18th August, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1960 which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 1/61 of the Ministry of Health.

The live birth-rate (adjusted) was higher than the previous year and, although comparable with the figure for Middlesex, was again lower than that for England and Wales. The actual number of live births increased by 33. There were only 4 still-births during the year compared with 9 in 1959. The infantile mortality rate was slightly higher than last year (8 deaths as against 7 in 1959) and higher than the county figure but below the national rate. There were fewer deaths (187 as against 200 in 1959) during the year, and the death rate (adjusted) is comparable with the respective figures for both Middlesex and England and Wales. The main causes of death were respiratory conditions.

Apart from whooping cough and dysentery the number of infectious disease notifications was low.

No deaths occurred from Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion. One death occurred from Acute Poliomyelitis, that of a child, who was admitted to Hospital five days after the onset of the disease, and unfortunately died two days after admission.

An outbreak of a mild type of throat infection occurred in one small Primary School. This was adequately dealt with by the School Medical Service.

Details of a single outbreak of food poisoning are given on page 25. This small incident, which was due to Salmonella Heidelberg, was one of several which occurred in the London area in the Autumn of 1960. An Epidemiologist from the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, who was interested in this particular type of Salmonella, gave valuable assistance during our enquiries.

I would like once more to express my thanks to all members of the Public Health staff for their willing co-operation at all times, and especially to Mr. Rooley and Mr. Rixson for their efficient organisation of the Department.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M.I. OUTRAM

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE AREA

Area	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1960 - Registrar General's Estimate)	23,140
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1960)	7,300
Rateable Value (31st March, 1960)	£389,254
Product of a penny rate (31st March, 1960) ..	£1,573.17.9

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	396
Live birth-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population ..	17.1
Live birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population ..	15.2
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	17.1
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for Middlesex (adjusted)	15.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2.8
Still-births	4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	10.0
Total live and still-births	400

Infant Mortality

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	20.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales	21.7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Middlesex	18.6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	20.8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	NIL
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	15.2
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	15.6
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Middlesex	14.5
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week)	10.1
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	20.0

Maternal Mortality

Maternal deaths (including abortion) NIL
 Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births NIL
 Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births
 for England and Wales 0.39
 Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births
 for Middlesex 0.20

Deaths

Death-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population 8.1
 Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population 11.3
 Death-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales 11.5
 Death-rate per 1,000 population for Middlesex
 (adj.usted) 11.1

BIRTHS

1960	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	202	183	385	2	2	4
Illegitimate	7	4	11	-	-	-
TOTALS	209	187	396	2	2	4

<u>DEATHS - Causes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System ..	1	0	1
Tuberculosis - other forms	0	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	0	0	0
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms	17	13	30
Leukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	6	9	15
Heart Diseases	35	39	74
Other Circulatory disease	1	4	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1	1
Pneumonia	6	7	13
Bronchitis	9	0	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1	1
Other Accidents	0	2	2
Suicide	3	2	5
Other causes	6	10	16
Totals ..	90	97	187

Note. No deaths occurred from Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion.

The following tables show details of statistics for the years since 1941.

1. POPULATION, RATEABLE VALUE, etc.

Year	Number of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value at 31st March	Population (mid-year)
1921 (Census)	-	£ -	3135
1931 (Census)	-	-	5720
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1942	4429	153,210	14660
1943	4431	152,572	14290
1944	4432	152,896	14190
1945	4432	153,286	14270
1946	4554	152,792	15350
1947	4724	157,834	16120
1948	4837	162,743	16340
1949	5006	163,376	16540
1950	5028	168,364	16660
1951	5074	169,444	16800 (Estimate) 17163 (Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620
1955	5485	187,121	17790
1956	5700	193,264	18910
1957	6400	332,572	20370
1958	6970	346,170	22000
1959	7219	366,460	22750
1960	7300	389,254	23140

2. DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, etc. (Unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1941	+	+	+
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1
1955	8.0	13.6	8.3
1956	9.2	15.7	27.0
1957	8.5	15.5	15.8
1958	7.7	18.1	10.1
1959	8.8	16.0	19.3
1960	8.1	17.1	20.2

+ Figures not available.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

The Council's Public Health & Housing Committee deals with all matters relating to Public Health including Slum Clearance, Improvement Grants, etc.. Certain other functions of the department, however, are specifically referred to other Committees, e.g. work covered by the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts is dealt with by the General Purposes Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health M.I.Outram, M.B.,Ch.B.,
(part-time) D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector .. J.H.Rooley, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health
Inspector .. R.W.Rixson, A.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Both Public Health Inspectors are whole-time officers, and, in addition to the basic qualification, are qualified Meat and Food Inspectors, and possess the Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

The Senior Inspector holds the additional appointments of Housing Manager and Inspector under the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts. The Additional Inspector is also Assistant Shops Act Inspector, and an appointed authorised officer under the Petroleum Acts. Both are appointed officers under various minor enactments such as the Pet Animals Act, 1951, Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, etc..

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The laboratory work of the Council was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, N.W.9. This laboratory is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:-

Milk Samples	62
Ice-Cream samples	86

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Middlesex County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. At the present time no vehicles operate from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There is a domiciliary service of midwifery and general nursing in operation in the district provided by the Area Health Committee.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are two clinics - one at The Elms, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Area Health Committee, and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare and dental services.

HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals within the district - Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms. They are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company and all houses have a mains supply. During the year 371 samples representative of supply were taken for bacteriological examination, and 5 samples for chemical analysis.

All the bacteriological samples were found to be free from Type I B. Coli in 100 m.l.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

On the sewerage system and sewage disposal the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:-

"Work continued on the maintenance and repair of the Council's older soil sewers, entailing the re-laying of short sections and the rebuilding of a number of manholes.

Investigation of the problem of the infiltration of surface water into the soil sewers continues. Such investigation confirms the view that this question is not easy of solution and the efforts which the Council are making are likely to be of long duration, and costly. When infiltration is discovered, either by defects or wrong connection, every effort is made to have them rectified and such work will continue with all the speed possible with the staff and labour available.

The improvements and repairs, coupled with routine inspections and maintenance, have ensured that the soil and surface water systems have presented the minimum of problems during the past year."

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:-

"Refuse collection and disposal has generally worked smoothly and a continuing high standard of service has been given by the Contractor, D. Heath & Sons Limited.

Disposal of refuse has continued under the facilities available at Messrs. Inns & Company's tip at Smallford."

SWIMMING POOL

The only swimming pool in the district is attached to restaurant premises at South Mimms, and is privately owned.

The pool has not been in use for several years and, in September, 1956, the entire premises were vacated and closed down.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act have been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Extracts from the report are:-

(a) Inspections

108 inspections were made in respect of the 82 factories and 9 other premises subject to the provision of the Act. In 9 premises contraventions of the provisions of the Factories Act were observed and there were 10 premises in which defects were remedied.

Below is a summary of improvements effected:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Sanitary conveniences improved/repaired/ cleansed (Section 6)	7
Additional sanitary conveniences provided (Section 6)	1
Ventilated lobbies to sanitary conveniences provided	2

(b) Outworkers

Employers' lists submitted showed that there were 31 premises where homework was carried on. 36 inspections and other visits were made.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

During the year one case in which an elderly man was living alone in unsatisfactory circumstances was brought to the attention of the department.

The case was thoroughly investigated, and after contact with relatives and the County Welfare Officer the man agreed, voluntarily, to enter a County Council Home for Aged Persons.

Section D - Housing

(See page 19 of the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section E - Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 22 of the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year, 1960 were:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	77	-	-
Measles	16	-	-
Pneumonia			
Acute Primary	4	-	-
Acute Influenzal	-	-	-
Dysentery	21	2	-
Food Poisoning	3	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
TOTALS	124	6	1

The following figures show notifications of certain Infectious Diseases since 1941:-

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35
1955	4	0	1	537	9
1956	2	0	1	30	25
1957	6	0	0	301	16
1958	11	0	1	20	6
1959	5	0	1	698	9
1960	1	0	1	16	77

IMMUNISATION

This service is carried out by the Area Medical Officer of Health, and he has kindly supplied the following figures relating to Potters Bar children.

	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Whooping Cough
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation *	485	370	420
Number of children who received reinforcing injections	742	39	39

* Most of these children were protected against all three diseases at the same time using 'triple' antigen. In fact, 334 children were protected in this way during 1960.

During a recent survey of children in the Area it was found that in Potters Bar during 1960, 92.8% of these children had been immunised against diphtheria and 83.8% had been vaccinated against smallpox before reaching their second birthday.

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1960

Diseases	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total 1960	Total 1959
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
Whooping Cough	39	36	2	-	-	77	9
Measles	11	5	-	-	-	16	698
Pneumonia							
Acute Primary	-	1	3	-	-	4	2
Acute Influenzal	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Dysentery	2	8	6	-	5	21	10
Acute Poliomyelitis							
Paralytic	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	2	3	5
TOTALS	53	51	13	-	7	124	744

TUBERCULOSIS - 1960

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1960	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1959	2	3	1	1	1	1	-	-

The numbers of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the commencement and end of the year are shown in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

1960	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	86	65	151	3	4	7	158
Total on register at end of year	80	54	134	3	5	8	142

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for the year 1960.

This is the 19th occasion on which I have submitted an Annual Report to this Council and as the years go by it becomes increasingly apparent that the general pattern of public health work is changing. Today more time must be devoted to preventive work rather than dealing with immediate remedial measures and this is illustrated by the continuing decline in complaints received by the department - particularly regarding conditions and defects at private dwelling houses. This decrease does not necessarily indicate that tenanted property is better maintained today but, in the case of decontrolled properties, as I mentioned in my report of 1957, landlords have taken the opportunity when creating tenancy agreements of transferring the responsibility for repairs to the tenant. In the case of those properties which are still controlled the reasons for the decrease are more complex. Present-day landlords do not regard the property as a continuing investment but rather seek to obtain possession with a view to re-development of the site or sale of the property, and in several cases have not even imposed the rent increases permissible under the Rent Act. Because of the comparatively low level of rents of controlled houses today there is also an unfortunate tendency on the part of tenants to refrain from complaining to the local authority, even where there is just cause, because of a fear that their tenancy can be terminated, or because of ignorance of the local authority's powers. There is also a surprising reluctance on the part of owners of tenanted properties to take advantage of Improvement Grants.

In the early part of 1960 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government requested that a further survey of unfit properties be carried out with a view to revising the figures originally submitted in 1955. December 31st, 1960, was the official end of the Council's original five year Slum Clearance Programme and by that date 85 properties had been represented to the Council with a view to demolition or closing or had in fact been demolished or closed (in some cases voluntarily). By coincidence only, this happened to be the same figure as that on which the original programme was based but as is mentioned in the Housing Section on Page 19 several properties remain to be dealt with as the programme slowed down because of the lack of alternative accommodation to offer displaced tenants.

Another survey which occupied a considerable amount of time was that of all schools in the district which was carried out at the request of the Area Medical Officer of Health and which was to form a part of a survey of all schools within the County. This survey is referred to in a later part of the report and the findings, in the case of some of the new schools were rather surprising.

During 1960 the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, were issued. The main effect of the former Regulations was to remove from this Council responsibility for licensing Milk Retailers. This function was transferred to the County Council and because of the provisions of the Regulations it was felt that there was no longer the necessity to continue a routine milk sampling programme. The information regarding routine sampling in another part of this report therefore will not appear in future years although, of course, there will always be the need for samples to be taken for particular reasons. The new Food Hygiene Regulations were mainly amending in character and few new provisions were introduced.

Other new legislation of importance was the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, which became operative in August, 1960. Little experience of the working of this Act was obtained by the end of the year but it seems that the Act contains measures which will offer much better control over the siting and maintenance of caravans than in the past.

On Page 30 some information is given regarding the working of the Clean Air Act, 1956, and there seems little doubt that members of the public are showing a keen interest in the provisions of the Act. Many express surprise that the district has no Smoke Control Areas and I think this is a matter which might well receive further consideration by the Council at an appropriate time.

Finally I wish once more to draw the Council's attention to the satisfactory service of the staff of the department. Much assistance in connection with the routine inspection work has again been rendered by Mr. Deamer and it is only by using his services in this way that sufficient attention can be given to the very wide range of matters now dealt with by the department. The Council is aware by now, of course, - i.e. at the time of preparing this report - that Mr. Deamer has been successful in qualifying as a Public Health Inspector and has been appointed as such to the Council. All members of the department have worked well and conscientiously and my thanks are due to them for making it possible to provide the standard of service which the Council and public expect from the department.

Your obedient servant,

J.H. ROOLEY,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Routine housing work under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1957 was confined to work in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance programme. Eight dwellings were inspected and found unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost. During the year 6 more houses were demolished. Thirteen families, a total of 31 persons, were rehoused by the Council from unfit property.

The table below shows the number of houses dealt with by the Council in their Slum Clearance programme which began in 1955:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	TOTAL
Houses represented to Council -							
Formally or Informally	16	17	14*	8	8	8	71
Unfit Houses actually demolished or closed							
(a) After Formal or Informal action	12	15	6	10	10	6	59
(b) Voluntarily by Owners	2	1	3	6	2	-	14

* One dwelling house represented as unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost was subsequently the subject of appeal, and by agreement with the owner the house was eventually made fit.

For the third consecutive year the number of houses represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost was rather less than in the earlier years of the Slum Clearance programme. The main reason was again the lack of alternative accommodation caused by the redevelopment of the prefabricated bungalow sites.

The official Five-year Slum Clearance programme ended on the 31st December, 1960, and by that date the total number of unfit houses represented to the Council was 71. Fourteen other houses, some of which were included in the five-year programme, were voluntarily demolished or closed by the owners. The original estimate of unfit houses on which the programme was based was 85.

Repair

In addition to procedure under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, 15 primary inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936, were carried out mainly as a result of complaints received. These figures do not include those houses dealt with for choked drainage only and which numbered 57, being the houses affected by 20 blockages.

During the year the defects at 12 houses inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936, were remedied.

A summary of improvements and repairs carried out at dwelling houses is shown below:-

<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>
Existing houses connected to local authority's sewers for the first time	2
Drains relaid, repaired or improved	9
Drains unstopped (20 blockages)	57
Eavesgutters and downpipes repaired, renewed or unstopped	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	2
Soil and waste pipes repaired/renewed	2
Additional new drainage provided	1*
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>	
Water closets provided to replace earth closets ..	1
Internal W.Cs. provided to replace external W.Cs. ..	1*
Flushing cisterns and/or flushpipes repaired or renewed	2
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	2
<u>Miscellaneous Repairs or Improvements</u>	
Roofs repaired or renewed	2
Damp-proof courses provided	1
Underfloor ventilation provided or improved	1
Windows repaired or renewed	2
Floors repaired or renewed	2
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed	2
Sundry repairs and improvements	1
Baths provided	2*
Lavatory basins provided	2*
Domestic hot water supplies provided	2*

* Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants

A large number of enquiries for Improvement Grants were received but most would-be applicants were interested in "improvements" outside the scope of the grant provisions.

Only one formal application for grant (a standard grant) was received and this was approved. Details are given below:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Nature of Improvement</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
83, Southgate Road	Provision of bath, wash basin and domestic hot water supply.	£80.

The works of improvement and repair at one house which was approved for grant prior to 1960 were completed during the year.

Certificates of Disrepair

The number of enquiries concerning Rent Control and procedure under the Rent Act, 1957, was less than in previous years. No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Housing Management

During 1960, 35 new properties were completed on the Gregory Avenue and Brookside Estates on the sites of demolished prefabs. These were required, of course, to house the tenants of prefabs. returning to the estate but by the use of properties so released and casual vacancies which occurred during the year a total of 92 lettings were made. Of this total 36 were families from the waiting list. In addition 56 transfers were effected.

The new development at Brookside was completed during 1960 and by the end of the year a substantial start had been made on the demolition of prefabs. at Gregory Avenue and the completion of some new properties there.

Details of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme are given above and as will be seen 13 families were housed from properties which were closed or demolished.

No revision of the waiting list was undertaken during 1960, and during the year the number of outstanding applications on the General list increased from 267 to 269, and those on the Aged Persons' and Single Persons' lists from 104 to 112. The Sherwood Avenue Halfway House continued to be in use and for most of the year all accommodation there was fully occupied.

During the year a considerable problem arose from the parking of tenants' cars on the highways in the various Council house estates and a comprehensive survey was carried out in the

Dugdale Hill area. Arising from this survey the Council agreed to provide an additional 36 garages and these were completed towards the end of the year. The provision of a parking area on the estate - particularly for commercial vehicles used by tenants, is planned for the future.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine work in connection with the inspection of food establishments and vehicles and in the general supervision of the food supplies, was carried out during the year.

409 inspections and other visits were made to the various food premises, vehicles, etc., in which food was prepared, stored or sold. 21 informal notices under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/1960, were served during 1960, and 24 informal notices were complied with during the year.

The tables that follow show at the 31st December, 1960, the principal food trades in the district, and the number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Catering Establishments:-

(a) Restaurants, Cafes, etc.,	..	..	..	..	21	}	42
(b) School Meals Centres.	..	..	..	..	12		
(c) Works Canteens.	..	..	..	..	4		
(d) Hospital and Institution Kitchens.	..	..	..	..	5		
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	14	
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	5	
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	29	
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	11	
Milk Distributing Depots	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	5	
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	13	
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	16	

Ice-cream:-

Manufacturers and Vendors (Registered)	..	..	1
Vendors only (Registered)	..	..	40

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	..	..	41
Manufacture of sausages	..	..	11
Boiling of hams	..	..	8
Cooking of poultry	..	..	1
			<u>61</u>

Below is a classification of the visits paid to food establishments and vehicles:-

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Cafes, licensed premises, etc.,	159
Bakehouses	8
Butchers' shops	31
Ice-cream manufacturers	1
Milk Depots	4
Other food premises	164
Milk and other food delivery vehicles, hawkers, etc.,	<u>42</u>
	<u>409</u>

A record of improvements effected at the various food establishments as a result of these visits is shown below:-

<u>Food Hyg.</u> <u>Reg.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Premises</u>
6 Cleansing of articles and equipment carried out	5
6 Articles and equipment repaired, renewed or improved	4
6 Risk of contamination to articles and/or equipment removed	1
14 Sanitary conveniences cleansed	5
14 "Wash hands" notices affixed near sanitary conveniences	1
16 Wash-hand basins provided	1
16 Hot water supplies provided in connection with wash basins	1
17 First aid materials provided	2
19 Sinks or other washing-up facilities improved	4
19 Hot water supplies provided in connection with sinks, etc.,	1
21 Ventilation of food rooms improved	2
23 Windows repaired/renewed	4
23 Floors repaired or renewed	4
23 Walls and ceilings renewed or repaired	13
23 Food rooms cleansed	5
23 Food rooms proofed against insects, etc.,	1
26 Names and addresses inscribed on food vehicles or stalls	1

Miscellaneous

Dustbins provided	1
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Certificates of Exemption

No Certificates of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/60 were issued during the year.

Ice-Cream

At the end of the year there was one premises in which ice-cream was manufactured on a small scale; the "heat treated" process was employed.

No new applications for registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the storage and sale of ice-cream were received, and at the end of the year there were 41 premises registered.

During 1960, 86 samples of ice-cream were obtained and submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory for analysis, and I give below a summary of the results:-

All Manufacturers:-

Satisfactory	{ Grade 1 ... 81 or 94% Grade 2 ... 3 or 3.5% }	97.5%
Unsatisfactory	{ Grade 3 ... 2 or 2.5% Grade 4 ... Nil }	2.5%
	<hr/> 86 <hr/>	

Local Manufacturers only:-

Satisfactory	{ Grade 1 ... 3 or 60% Grade 2 ... 2 or 40% }	100%
Unsatisfactory	{ Grade 3 ... Nil Grade 4 ... Nil }	Nil

Comparative figures for last 5 years:-

<u>All Manufacturers:-</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Satisfactory (Grades 1 & 2)	100%	94%	99%	97%	97.5%
Unsatisfactory (Grades 3 & 4)	Nil	6%	1%	3%	2.5%

Local Manufacturers only:-

Satisfactory (Grades 1 & 2)	100%	87.5%	96%	95%	100%
Unsatisfactory (Grades 3 & 4)	Nil	12.5%	4%	5%	Nil
Total samples taken	63	80	97	99	86

Notes

During 1960 very little ice-cream was manufactured locally, hence the very small number of samples of this ice-cream taken.

Both the unsatisfactory samples were investigated. One came from an itinerant vendor operating in the district, and it was concluded that the unsatisfactory care of serving utensils may have been responsible. Advice was given on the proper care of such utensils and a subsequent sample proved satisfactory.

In the other case the sample was of prepacked ice-cream, and no reason for the unsatisfactory result could be found.

Food Poisoning

Three cases of food poisoning (representing one incident or outbreak) were notified, and these occurred in Potters Bar Hospital. Two of the patients were elderly inmates (aged 70 and 86 years respectively) and the third was a member of the nursing staff who was discovered when a bacteriological examination of the faeces of certain members of the staff was carried out.

The organism responsible for the outbreak was identified as Salmonella Heidelberg, but despite extensive enquiries etc., the vehicle of infection was not definitely established.

Milk Supply

During 1960, 62 samples of the various designated milks were taken from retailers trading in the district. All were satisfactory.

There were 9 Dealers' and 5 Supplementary licences to sell designated milks in force in 1960.

Inspection of Food

The table following shows the food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption and subsequently surrendered and destroyed:-

Unsound Food - 1960

				<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Home Killed Beef	..	..	..	20	-
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	24	11½
Tinned Vegetables	..	..	..	6	12
				<hr/>	
				1 qtr.	23 lbs. 7½ ozs.
				<hr/>	

All condemned food is disposed of either by burning in the furnace of Clare Hall Hospital, or rendered unusable and disposed of at the Refuse Tip at Cole Green, Hatfield.

Slaughterhouses

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the district.

As required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the Council considered the present and future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities and submitted their report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

Existing arrangements are adequately met by slaughterhouses in nearby districts, e.g. Letchworth, Ware, etc., and the Central Meat Market at Smithfield. The provision of additional slaughtering facilities within the district was found to be unnecessary.

Food and Drugs Act (Adulteration etc.,)

These duties are carried out by the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council, and Mr. O'Keefe, Chief Officer of that department, has kindly supplied the following information which shows the work carried out in Potters Bar during 1960:-

(a) Sampling

Articles	Total Samples Procured	Unsatisfactory
Milk (Various)	32	1
Bread and Cakes	7	1
Butter and Margarine	4	-
Cooked Meat	5	-
Cheese	6	-
Cream	3	-
Drugs	7	-
Fish & Fish Products	8	2
Fruit - Fresh and Canned	4	-
Ice-cream	3	-
Meat & Meat Products	15	-
Sausages etc.	2	-
Spirits	10	-
Vegetables - Fresh & Canned	3	-
Vinegar	7	-
Miscellaneous	11	-
TOTALS	127	4

Notes:

Milk A sample of hot milk was procured from an Espresso coffee bar and upon analysis proved to contain 7.7 per cent of added water. The milk was heated by the use of a steam jet and the owners of the restaurant did not appear to realise this would necessarily mean the addition of some water. An official caution was issued.

Bread A bread roll purchased from a retail shop contained a piece of metal. Legal proceedings were instituted against the bakers concerned and a fine of £5 was imposed and an order made for costs of one guinea.

Fish Two purchases of smoked haddock proved to be cod. Legal proceedings were instituted in each case and fines of £2 were imposed on each charge and an order was made for costs totalling one guinea.

(b) Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953

The majority of the inspection work carried out under the provisions of these Acts is to ensure compliance with the requirements of the various marking orders made under the provisions of the Act of 1926. These orders apply to the marking of the country of origin on imported foodstuffs principally meat, tomatoes, apples, dried fruits, bacon, ham, poultry, butter and honey upon sale and exposure for sale. Inspections were made at 66 premises of 504 displays of these foodstuffs and only one infringement was noted. In this case oranges were falsely described as 'seedless' and an official caution was issued.

(c) Labelling of Food Order, 1953

This Order requires pre-packed food to be marked with the name and address or with the registered trade mark of the packer or labeller. It also requires such food to be labelled with its common or usual name (if any) and in the case of a compounded food with the names of the ingredients in descending order of proportion by weight. Furthermore, it controls the manner in which the presence of vitamins and minerals is disclosed and prescribes specific labelling of certain foods. A total of 173 articles of pre-packed food was examined at 39 different premises to verify compliance with these regulations. No material infringement of the Order was discovered but as to false or misleading labelling, see below.

(d) False and Misleading Descriptions

Food advertisements and labels have been scrutinised for false and misleading statements and descriptions. Corrective

action taken within the whole area of the county has equal effect within each county district and work under this heading is combined with inspections made under the terms of the Merchandise Marks Acts and Labelling of Food Order. Examples where corrective action was sought are: television and press advertisements which falsely suggested that a cheese was a cream cheese, advertisements which falsely suggested a fruit content for sweets, and jam-cream sponge and cream doughnuts which contained imitation cream.

(e) Safe Milk

In addition to the foregoing 13 samples of raw milk were procured within your district and submitted to tests for the presence of tubercle bacilli; none was found contaminated.

RODENT CONTROL, 1960

In the year under review 126 notifications of rats and/or mice were received and investigated compared with 167 during 1959. The number of primary surveys carried out as a routine measure or associated with notifications was 304 compared with 434 in 1959 and the number of treatments was less than last year (123 compared with 132 last year).

As in previous years the methods of eradication employed were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The types of infestation encountered followed the usual pattern - gardens, yards and outbuildings attached to dwelling houses predominating.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1960:-

Number of primary surveys carried out

by (a)	notification	..	..	..	..	..	126	
(b)	otherwise	..	..	..	..	..	178	304

Total number of visits made in connection
with Rodent Control

(a)	by Public Health Inspector	..	..	..	93	
(b)	by Rodent Operator	..	..	..	737	830

Number of separate treatments carried
out

					<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a)	by Local Authority	..	..	..	110	7	117
(b)	by Occupiers	..	..	..	2	4	6
					<u>112</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>123</u>

Number of cases where no infestation was found .. 181

The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with:-

							<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	9
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings)	..						77	-	77
Sewers and drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Agricultural Property	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	-	8
Schools (including Meals Centres)				..	..		-	2	2
Shop Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	2
Building Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
Other Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	2	19
							<u>112</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>123</u>

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Number of informal notices served in respect of

(a) treatments	25	} 36
(b) structural work (proofing)	..					11	

Number of statutory notices served .. -

Legal proceedings instituted -

Premises rat-proofed 12

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The disinfection of premises and/or articles was carried out in connection with the following diseases:-

Scarlet Fever 1

Poliomyelitis and Suspected Poliomyelitis 4

The work carried out by the department in connection with the eradication of insect pests, other than wasps, was confined almost entirely to advisory measures. Three premises were, however, treated for infestations by cock-roaches, bed bugs and ants respectively.

It was another notable year for the number of wasps' nests infesting premises and land. 193 premises were treated by the department and advice was offered in many other cases.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The urban district has no real industrial smoke problem, and only infrequently is it found necessary to take action in regard to a smoke nuisance. The area is not within a "black area".

Clean Air Act, 1956

(a) Smoke Control Areas

No further consideration was given during the year to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

It is reasonably clear, however, that the public are becoming "Clean Air" conscious and several enquiries have been made.

(b) Building Byelaw re heating and cooking appliances

A new building byelaw made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act was adopted by the Council in 1957. This Byelaw is designed to ensure that domestic appliances installed in new buildings are capable of burning smokeless fuels or otherwise capable of smokeless operation.

(c) New Furnaces (Section 3)

All applications under Section 3 (2) for the prior approval of new furnaces are dealt with jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no applications were received.

No notifications under Section 3(3) regarding the installation of new furnaces were received.

(d) Height of Chimneys (Section 10)

Plans of new buildings (other than dwellings, shops and offices) which indicate the proposed erection of a chimney, are examined jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no plans under this heading were received.

(e) General

In 2 cases smoke nuisances were abated after informal action.

DRAINAGE

During the year 26 choked drainage systems involving 96 premises were dealt with by the department, and at 12 premises the drainage systems were repaired, reconstructed or enlarged. The 2 Dyrham Park Lodges were provided with water carriage drainage systems connected to the Council's sewer for the first time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Schools

During the Summer months a full survey of all County Council schools was undertaken in collaboration with the Area School Medical Officer. The survey formed part of a comprehensive review, from a medical standpoint, of all maintained schools in the County of Middlesex.

Although Potters Bar is fortunate in having a relatively high proportion of new schools, various recommendations were made regarding such matters as water supplies, ventilation, the sufficiency of washing and toilet accommodation based on "The Standards for School Premises Regulations, 1959", and the equipment and buildings used in the School Meals Service.

The completed survey forms and all recommendations were sent to the Area Medical Officer for representation to the County Council.

Caravans

The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, which came into force on the 29th August, 1960, provided local authorities with more effective machinery than hitherto for controlling caravan sites. It strengthened the powers of Planning Authorities and introduced a new licensing system to be administered by County Borough and County District Councils.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government also issued for the guidance of local authorities model standards designed to form the basis of conditions to be attached to site licences.

All occupiers of existing sites were required to apply for site licences by the 29th October, 1960. Four applications in respect of sites, housing, in three cases only one caravan, and in the other case two caravans, were made during the year, but planning permission was not determined in sufficient time to issue site licences.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One factory in which the manufacture of soft furnishings is carried on is registered under the above Act.

During the year it was found that certain records which are required to be kept under Section 9 were not in fact being kept. When this contravention was drawn to the attention of the Company the necessary records were provided.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three applications for licences to keep pet shops were received during the year, and at each shop conditions were found to be satisfactory and licences were issued.

Street Trading

Although several enquiries were made during the year, no formal applications under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944 were received.

General

The administration of various other Acts of Parliament is carried out by the Public Health Department and these include:-

Shops Act, 1950.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act,
1956.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations.

Inspection duties under the Shops Act are usually combined with those under other headings carried out at shop premises, but many enquiries are dealt with, usually in connection with hours of closing, Sunday trading, etc..

The Council's various functions under the Acts and Regulations dealing with petroleum spirit and other substances subject to licence, are administered by the Public Health & Housing Department and the Senior Public Health Inspector is the authorised officer under these Acts and Regulations.

During 1960, only one new licence was approved and this was at the premises of a commercial firm providing 1,000 gallons storage for the use of their own vehicles.

At the end of the year 24 licences were in force and these permitted a total storage capacity of 99,950 gallons.

One of the standard conditions attached to all licences issued by the Council relates to the testing of storage tanks at certain intervals and during 1960, 20 tanks were tested prior to the renewal of licences at five premises.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Visits and Inspections made during the Year

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts ..	734
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	227
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act ..	413
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act	149
Visits and inspections under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations ..	60
Shops Act visits and inspections	6
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	46

Visits and inspections re Rodent Control

(by Public Health Inspector)	93
(by Rodent Operator)	737
Administrative visits	185
Rehousing visits, etc.,	477
Visits under Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960 ..	2
Visits under Rag Flock Act	2
Visits under Clean Air Act	8
Miscellaneous visits	89
Total visits and inspections	<u>3228</u>

Details of Formal and Informal Action

Number of premises etc., in respect of which verbal notices were given	80
Number of premises etc., where improvements were effected following verbal notices	82
Number of premises etc., in respect of which written Informal Notices were served	12
Number of premises etc., where improvements were effected following service of written Informal Notices	13

Statutory Notices served:-

Housing Act, 1957

Requisition for Information (Section 170)	5
Time and Place for considering unfit house (Section 16)	11
Notice to quit house subject to Demolition Order (Section 22)	11
Demolition Orders (Section 17)	11 38
Statutory notices requiring execution of works complied with	6

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

